GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3813
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
JATROPHA FARMING
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya;Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a special scheme for he farming of Jatropha in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the nature of climatic and soil required for Jatropha farming;

(d) whether the Government has got any research done in this connection;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government is contemplating a National Mission on Bio-Diesel involving plantation of Jatropha as feedstock for Bio-diesel production wherein it is proposed to cover over an area of 4 lakh ha. of dgraded forest and non-forest lands. The proposal is awaiting the principle approval of the Planning Commission. However, a Central Sector Scheme `Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds` is being implemented in the country to accelerate the production of Tree Borne Oilseeds like jatropha, karanja, mahua, neem, wild apricot, Cheura etc. Need based research and development programmes have been initiated by making networking of research institutions in the country. Besides, model plantation have been organized by using elite planting material in more than 800 ha. area during 2004-05 in 23 States.

(c): It can be grown on a wide range of soil and agro climatic conditions except under water logging condition.

(d) to (f): Yes, Sir. National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board has initiated a R&D Network programme on Integrated Development of jatropha by involving various R&D Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) etc. to address different researchable issues namely Establishment of National and State provenance trial, identification of elite planting material, seed resource assessment and storage, phonological and chemical evaluation for characterization, tree improvement to get quality and reliable seed source, multi-locational trials of elite planting material, techniques for mass multiplication of quality planting material, model plantation including agro-forestry models, evolving good cropping system of TBOs with other plants/crop, post harvest tools and technology, detoxification of oil meal of important TBOs, training of various target groups etc.